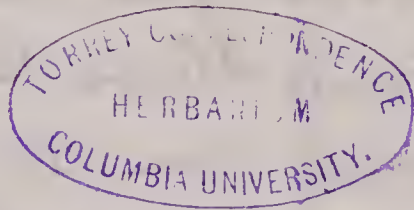


Burlington Iowa Mar 3^d 1854

My Dear Sir



Your kind favor of Jan 13th would not have remained so long unanswered had I not at the time I received it and ever since been walking in the valley of the shadow of death with a dear friend an almost life-long companion whose remains I committed yesterday to the grave.

And now let me thank you for calling up by your most acceptable letter the pleasant memories of the long buried but never forgotten past. It was one of the chief pleasures of my earlier and most cherished recollections of my later life that I could number you among my friends and truly thankful am I that you have not forgotten me nor those delightful studies and pursuits that formed the connecting tie of our earlier and more joyful but perhaps not better days.

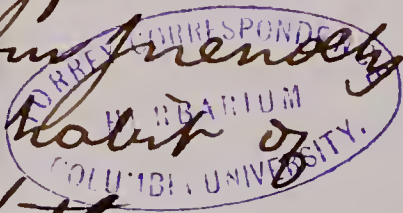
And now for an answer to your
home question "What have I been
doing these last fifty years?" As this
world counts doing; — little or nothing
It did not take me long to discover
that it was not for me to "make my
mark upon the age" and having
^{settled} ~~determined~~ that point to my own
satisfaction I determined to make
it on myself. I said "I will rule my
own spirit" and thus be greater than
"he that taketh the city" I said "I will not
love the world or seek to honors or pos-
sessions that so the love of the Father
may be in me and his peace rest upon
me!" Looking back across the chilling shadows
of the evening and the more sunny
tracts of middle and early life I see
not much to regret in my course of
inaction and passiveness as to the things
of the life that is. What have I gained
in relation to that to come? My confidence
in the future has not been strengthened
nor my hopes made more bright by

what I have done, suffered, and encountered
here

But - as I feel myself approaching the
chill and foggy domains of theology, to walk
in which may and should be wholly distaste-
ful to a true lover of nature like yourself I will
say no more about these things. Unless it should
happen that you having had experiences may
be conscious of something in this line which
might be valuable by way of exchange with
and old and true friend and a lover of
all knowledge and all truth especially
such as bears upon the interests and pros-
pects of our higher and better natures

As I am no longer bound to any one
spot of earth by family ties (my only son is
married and settled in business in Du Buque)
it enters into my day dreams that I may yet
go forth to gather weeds and stones and
rubbish for the use of some who may value
such things, and perhaps drop this life wearied
body beside some solitary stream in the wilderness

In the mean time it would afford me
the truest satisfaction to grasp your friendly
hand once more or to be in the habit of
frequent intercourse & with you by letter
Most truly yours E. James



Dr. John Jones

New York

